

VISIONS & VALUES

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Executive Director

IDAHO HOLDS FIRST PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Sixty-five graduates of the Partners in Policymaking program came from all over the state to the first Idaho Partners Leadership Institute September 8-10, in Boise. The three day conference gave graduates the chance to see old friends, make new ones, and re-ignite the fire so many graduates felt they had lost. The conference also reminded us of how much we can learn from each other.

Graduates learned about many of the things listed, but so much more...

- The growing self-advocacy movement in Idaho
- What parents are doing to support their children to become strong self-advocates
- Tips for making transition from

high school more successful for young adults

- How to talk with your teenagers about sexuality
- The importance of people with disabilities voting
- How to register to vote
- How to ask someone on a date

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Community Build Day for Adventure Island

The "Grand Voyage" structure of Adventure Island Playground has been erected and as soon as final surfacing around the structure is completed, the playground will be open for use. Nearly 340 volunteers showed up for Community Build Day on August 28 and worked feverishly to assemble the thousands of parts and erect the huge playground structure. In fact, the Grand Voyage represents the largest single playground structure ever assembled through a Community Build Day effort.

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COUNCIL PROJECTS

The Idaho SALN Is Growing!



Bob Quast, Region 1 SALN

The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) has added three new teams to its army of self-advocates. These teams are being educated about self-advocacy, self-directed supports, how to create presentations and how to become public speakers. When the teams are through with this training in March, 2005, they will put it to use educating other adults with disabilities about self-advocacy. The Region II team includes **Christie Mathwig, Thomas McKnight** and **John Russell** (this area is from Tensed to Riggins). The Region V team includes **Lia Haile, David Dekker** and **Bridget Shanahan** (this area is from Hammett to Stanley). The Region VI team includes **Larry Freis** and **James Steed** (this area is from Blackfoot to Franklin). Also participating in this training is former Council member **Bob Quast** who will be joining the Region I team. The Council appreciates the commitment of these individuals to

being pioneers for self-advocacy in our state. It is great to have them with us!

Last October the Council trained the Region I team members **Michael Fodge** and **Bert Seward** (this area is from Bonners Ferry to St. Maries) and Region VII team members **Tyler Hancock, Calleen Smith** and **Erick Yeary** (this area is from Salmon to Idaho Falls). Since last March the teams have been busy teaching adults with disabilities about how to be self-advocates and why it's important to speak up about issues important to them. Both teams have also presented to the Idaho Legislature, parents, teachers, and service providers. The Council is looking forward to having all five teams working in their regions to teach other adults with disabilities how to speak up and speak out about the issues important to them. The seeds of the Idaho self-advocacy movement are being planted, the word is spreading, and the power of self-advocacy is growing!



Larry Freis, Region 6 SALN

Partners Institute

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- How to talk about past sexual abuse and where to go for help
 - How to work as a team with Partner graduates and others to make positive change happen for people with disabilities
 - How to look outside the service system to get your support needs met
 - People with disabilities mentoring others with disabilities as they move from institutions to their community
 - How to be self-employed
 - The variety of self-employment businesses people are doing
 - The self-directed support waiver for adults with developmental disabilities anticipated to be available next July, 2005
- A self-advocate summed it up best, "It is very good that we are able and encouraged to live full lives and to choose how we want to live. Keep it up!"

Partners in Policymaking 2005

The Partners in Policymaking program is now being coordinated by Trina Balanoff out of the University of Idaho's Center on Disability and Human Development (CDHD) in Boise. You can contact Trina at (208) 364-9931 (press 2 for voicemail), email at Balanoff@uidaho.edu.

Recruitment for the 2005 class of Partners will begin soon. Applications can be downloaded from the Partners website at: <http://idahopartners.state.id.us>

COUNCIL PROJECTS



Here Comes the Bus!

Are you ready for the bus? The Self-Determination Bus Tours start rolling in June 2005. Details will be available in following newsletters and later on the Council website.



Council Parent League

The Council is inviting parents to join a statewide grassroots network of parents in a Parent League. Parent League members will be able to get information on Council initiatives, systems change and policy issues, opportunities for advocacy and involvement in Council projects. The Council also hopes to gather input from parents on community development ideas and to identify needs and key issues. Please contact Tracy Warren at the Council office to join the Parent League.

"Parents give their children two most important things: one is roots, the other wings."

SDTF Planning Summit A Success

The Self Determination Task Force Waiver Project wrapped up the "design phase" in the development of a self-directed service system model with a Planning Summit on July 8th and 9th. SDTF members were joined by some new participants from the Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network and additional personnel from Medicaid. With the help of CMS technical assistance from Suzanne Crisp, the group was able to answer some long-standing questions and close the gap on several

design elements to help the project move forward into the "construction phase." The infrastructure to support a service model for self-direction will be developed with new core teams formed around key issues in the hopes of moving towards implementation by the fall of 2005. The SDTF will continue to be involved, either in workgroups or through a process for input that will be communicated through the Council.



Adventure Island

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Other structures will be added as funds become available for the \$1.2 million project.

Adventure Island Playground is Idaho's first universally accessible playground, meaning that all children, regardless of their abilities, can use the entire structure. The Idaho Council on

Community Build Day Finale

Developmental Disabilities has provided financial support to this project. Council Member Wendall Cass, Executive Director, Marilyn Sword, Council staff Judy Wauer and Ron Enright were volunteers for the Community Build Day event.

STATE NEWS



Children's Special Health Care Program Changes

Over the last several months, discussions have taken place around recommendations for changes to the Children's Special Health Care Program in Idaho. The CSHP program provides medical services to children with special health care needs through regional clinics. The program is funded under a federal Title V Maternal and Child Health block grant.

For several years, the Idaho program has operated at a deficit in order to meet the needs of Idaho children and families. They were able to do this by using funds from other Title V programs to fill the budget gap. Those funds are no longer available and Idaho's program is now making changes that will affect how some families across the state access medical care for their children who have special health care needs. These changes are slated to go into effect on October 1. The primary changes proposed by CSHP are:

- eliminate the CSHP-sponsored regionally-based clinics and require families to seek services for their child with local and regional specialists; CSHP will provide some subsidies for specialist travel and other costs

- for those with insurance or Medicaid, no longer provide the care coordination that helps families navigate a complex array of services for their children with special health care needs

- eliminate coverage for all services except cystic fibrosis and PKU

- provide coverage for the full range of CSHP services only for those without insurance

This past year, 2,781 children were served through the CSHP. Of this number, 40% are covered by Medicaid, 50% are covered by private insurance and 10% are uninsured. The proposed changes would eliminate CSHP coverage to all but 283 uninsured children. This may have an adverse effect on families, especially those who may have private insurance but are 'under-insured' because of coverage limitations. In addition, families may have to travel a greater distance and/or visit several different medical professionals to get the medical care they once were able to get through the clinics.

Advocates, including the Council, are discussing strategies to work with policymakers to provide funds to prevent families from losing critical services and to work together to help meet these needs in the future.

COUNCIL VISION:

"All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing citizens of their communities."

State Independent Living Conference

Mark your calendars for the State Independent Living Conference to be held at the Boise Centre on the Grove, January 31 through February 3, 2005. Former U. S. Senator Robert Dole has been invited to deliver the keynote address and to help Idaho celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. While the Senator's participation is yet to be finalized, conference planners have loaded the conference with lots of great presenters, social gatherings, and great entertainment.

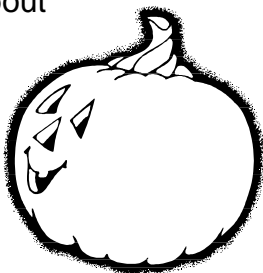
A portion of the conference will be devoted to generating support for legislation creating the "Idahoans with Disabilities Act". Modeled after the national act, the Idaho act hopefully will create a greater statewide awareness about the rights of individuals with disabilities in Idaho. Details are being worked out for a State Capitol rally and visit with legislators to garner support for the proposed legislation.

STATE NEWS

Micro Enterprises: A Quick Way To Begin Self-Employment

Western Washington University recently conducted a micro-enterprise workshop in Boise for a dozen individuals with developmental disabilities wanting to start their own businesses. Participants attended the session with a person who would provide the support necessary to get the business started once they returned home. From the workshop, people learned that a micro-enterprise is a small business requiring less than \$500 to start and if successful to any degree, should begin to turn a profit after three months.

The support person is key to assisting someone start their own business. They can help identify and link the business starter with essential people and resources in their communities. One difficult-to-come-by resource is always money. During the workshop, information was provided about various revolving loan funds that might be available as a source of start up money. The Council on Developmental Disabilities is also considering the possibility of making micro enterprise mini-grants available to individuals with developmental disabilities. A decision about this will be made at the Council's quarterly meeting in October.



Planning for Medicaid Buy-In Implementation

Complying with the intent of the 2004 Idaho Legislature, Health and Welfare's Division of Medicaid is moving forward with plans to implement a Medicaid Buy-In program. When fully implemented the program will allow certain individuals with disabilities who are receiving SSI, to maintain their Medicaid benefits after those individual's employment income exceeds the maximum allowable amount for Medicaid eligibility.

The Council on Developmental Disabilities is represented on the task force of Medicaid staff,

legislators and other advocacy organization representatives. Different options are being considered. The option that seems most favorable proposes a timed phase-in of eligible participants, beginning January 2005. The Legislature did not appropriate funds for implementation so the task force has been attempting to create a cost neutral program that satisfies legislative intent. The Division of Medicaid will announce exact information about the program later this year.

Tools For Life: Secondary Transition and Technology Fair

This transition and technology fair is for anyone who has an interest in supporting individuals with disabilities as they transition from school to adult life. Sessions covering topics such as community living, employment,

college and assistive technology will be presented. The fair is scheduled for January 13 and 14 in Boise. For more information go to the Idaho Assistive Technology website at: www.educ.uidaho.edu/idatech

The Riot! Is Born!

The Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) at the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) has just launched ***The Riot!***, a free self-advocacy e-newsletter. Self-advocates and their associates at SALN worked together to plan and create content for the quarterly newsletter. For more information about *The Riot!*, go to

<http://www.hsri.org/leaders/theriot>. To download a copy of the very first issue, go to http://www.hsri.org/docs/Riot_Issues_1.PDF. Note that Idaho SALN members Erick Yearly, Calleen Smith, Tyler Hancock, Bert Seward, and Michael Fodge are mentioned in this issue and Michael is Idaho's representative advisor to ***The Riot!***

NATIONAL NEWS

Feel The Power of The Disability Vote

The presidential election is upon us and more than any other election before, the voting power of people with disabilities is a factor to be reckoned with. The passage of the **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** and the funds that go with it, have raised the consciousness of election officials and workers about the requirements to increase access for voters with disabilities. Various disability groups have organized around getting their constituents out to vote. This has meant an increased focus on voting rights, polling place accessibility, voter

registration, and candidate research. Although some groups are advocating one candidate over another, most are interested in making sure that people with disabilities understand what it takes to vote. Make sure that **YOU** exercise your voting rights and

encourage others to do so.

Good News! The Idaho Project Vote group just heard from the Idaho Secretary of State's office that they will be receiving funds to conduct trainings around the state on voting for people with disabilities and other groups.

For more information and/or to register to vote, go to the following web sites:

<http://www.idsos.state.id.us/ELECT/voterrights.htm>

<http://www.idsos.state.id.us/ELECT/VoterGuide/2004general.htm>

http://www.idsos.state.id.us/elect/voterreg/vtr_reg.htm

<https://ssl.capwiz.com/nacdd/e4/nvra>



Election Day is November 2 - Get Out and Vote!

Alliance For Full Participation

Two years ago, 11 national organizations came together to plan for the future in the developmental disabilities field. In December of last year, these organizations officially formed the Alliance for Full Participation. The objective of the Alliance is to fully realize the vision of people with developmental disabilities to live meaningful, productive and personally satisfying lives in their communities. Alliance members include, among others, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), the National Association of Protection and Advocacy

Systems (NAPAS), the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the Arc, United Cerebral Palsy, and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE).

Teams representing Alliance organizations are working in each state to build a grass-roots advocacy effort that will come together at a national conference in Washington, DC, next fall. This summit, entitled **Many Voices, One Vision**, will provide an opportunity for all those organizations to come together and organize around a common vision, to establish national strategic, social and policy

goals, and to create a proactive and responsive action plan for the future. The summit will be held September 21-24, 2005 at the Washington, DC Hilton. More than 1,200 attendees are expected.

The Idaho team is being coordinated by the Council on Developmental Disabilities. Initial planning meetings will be held this fall. If you are interested in participating as a representative of one of the national partner organizations, please contact the Council office at 334-2178 or 1-800-544-2433.

EDITORIALS



Theresa Wilding,
Chairperson

It Starts With Me

As a person with a disability I have learned some lessons that have helped me deal with life.

I would like to share a few of these things with you.

The first lesson I have had to learn, is to accept myself and my disability. That may sound funny since I have had a disability all my life. But how can I expect other people to like me and to feel comfortable around me if I don't feel comfortable with who I am.

Another lesson I had to learn is to laugh at myself. Life with a disability can create some difficult, awkward moments. But then again who doesn't

have awkward embarrassing moments, with or without a disability. I have learned to turn embarrassing moments into something that is no big deal. We are always going to say or do stupid things but learning to laugh can make all the difference.

I have learned that if I want friends I have to get out into my community and make friends. Sitting in my house and expecting people to come be my friend just is not going to happen. There are so many opportunities to be out in our community. There are always places and projects that need volunteers. I love to go to sports events, community plays, and the local craft shop. I volunteer my time to help with the local Junior

Miss Program, Youth group activities, teach adult computer classes, etc. By doing these things it gives me a chance to get to know people and it gives them a chance to get to know me.

I enjoy my life as a person with a disability. I look for the positive things of being different. There are many advantages to being different. I have met and made great friends with people that I would not have in my life if I did not have a disability. I can walk across Idaho State University and half of the people I pass remember me and call me by name. I can see life in a different perspective and enjoy the simple things. Plus I get a \$2 discount at Disneyland!



Marilyn Sword,
Executive Director

There's No Place Like Home

When we think of what makes a satisfying life there are several things

we all consider important – a safe place to live (preferably of our own choosing), education to help us meet our goals, a livable wage, affordable health care, supportive friends and family, and access to activities in the community that give our lives meaning. Together these make up the safety net that supports each of us.

One of the most critical elements of this picture is hous-

ing. Over the years for many people with developmental disabilities, this need was met through an institution of some kind – a nursing home, state school, group home. But as choice and independence brought community living to the forefront, other housing options emerged. And because housing is a major expense and people with developmental and other disabilities often do not have the funds to rent or purchase a home, subsidies and waiting lists were commonplace.

In response to this affordable housing shortage, the Council

on Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, established the Home of Your Own (HOYO) Program in Idaho in 1996. Through this program, which provided funds for down payments for people with disabilities, more than 30 Idahoans were able purchase their own home. After a few years, the Council transferred coordination responsibilities to one of its partners in the project. Due to funding restrictions, the program languished although interest remained high.

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No Place Like Home

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Now we are on the road to reactivating the program. *Opening Doors*, a new non-profit organization has been formed to get HOYO back on track. This organization will have far more opportunities to access matching grant monies that are so necessary for mortgage financing. And by doing so, people with disabilities in Idaho will once again have the chance to pursue the American dream – a home of their own. Welcome back, HOYO!

New Council Members Appointed

The Council is pleased to welcome our new council members appointed by **Governor Dirk Kempthorne**. New members are **Dona Butler** from Nampa, **Paige Fincher** from Boise, **John Grover** from Salmon, **Mary Johnson** from Grangeville, **Kim Kane** from Boise, and **Wendy Shelman** from Pocatello. Reappointed to another term were **Donna Denney** from Boise, **Bob Jackson** from Eagle, **Elizabeth Ricciardi** from Coeur d'Alene,

Roger Shanahan from Hansen, **Jill Smith** from Coeur d'Alene, and **Theresa Wilding** from Terreton. Governor Kempthorne has also appointed Theresa Wilding as our Council Chair. The Council also acknowledges with appreciation the service and dedication of **Ed Wimmer**, **Socorro Sanchez**, **Brett Harrell**, and **Kathy Gneiting** for their service on the Council. Congratulations to everyone!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

OCTOBER

- 15-16 Rekindling the Flame - CPI Conference
- 27 State Independent Living Council Meeting
- 28-30 Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 2 ELECTION DAY - GET OUT AND VOTE!
- 16-17 Early Years Conference
- 17-20 TASH Conference "Blasing the Trail" - Reno

DECEMBER

- 10 Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition Meeting

25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

JANUARY

- 13-14 Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Technology Fair
- 31-Feb.3 State Independent Living Conference

To contact the DD Council: Phone: (208) 334-2178, Fax: (208) 334-3417, Email: icdd@icdd.state.id.us

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